the school has not yet been opened There is great resentment among the people of that area Due to not starting the schools from the current academic year Therefore, the school may be started from this year itself

(vi) Doubling of Sonarpur-Canning Railway Line and also to Improve the condition of Coaches on Sealdah-Canning Branch Line

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) Sir the railway line from Sealdah to Canning on the Eastern Railway is said to be second oldest railway line built in the country Canning is the gateway to Sunderbans area, renowned for its unique flora and fauna and mangrove forests but it it poverty-ridden being no industry there and the local populace look to tourist traffic potential only There is at present a double line between Sealdah and ssonarpur I would suggest that the Sonarpur-Canning line which is only 25 kms may also be doubled during the Ninth Plan so as to boost tourist traffic and help these poor residents to sustain themselves Till such time as this is done I would also suggest the introduction of tokenless system on this section from Sonarpur to Canning which would very much help the tourists in saving their time in waiting for crossing of trains and improve the conditions of coaches on the Sealdah-Canning Branch Line and strengthen the existing arrangements in coaches so that the tourists both domestic and foreign are not handicapped by missing window shutters and proper seating arragements

(vii) Need to bring Sambhalpur, Jharsuguda and Sundergarh Districts under the Jurisdiction of newly created East Coast Railway

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) Sir it is a matter of gratification that although late a new railway zone called the East Coast Railway has been created recently with its Headquarters at Bhubaneshwar yet a substantial portion of the State of Orissa under the industrial districts of Sambalpur Jharsuguda and Sundergarh along the Bombay-Howrah rail line has been kept out of it contrary to the expectations of the people Continuation of this area under the jurisdiction of the South Eastern Railway having Headquarters at Garden Reach Calcutta is not logical On this score there is mounting discontentment and resentment among the people in the said region

I therefore request the Minister of Railways to personally look into the matter and correct the situation without further delay

17.11 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Drought Situation in Orissa

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN Now on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture Shri Srikanta Jena the hon Minister will make a statement on the situation caused by drought in Orissa

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) The Agriculture Minister is busy in the other House *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR M P JAISWAL (Bettiah) What happened to my matter under Rule 377?

MR CHAIRMAN You please meet Mr Speaker have read out the names as ordered by him

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) The hon Minister is going to make a statement on the drought situation in Orissa My appeal to you Sir is that the Minister of Agriculture must be present in the House now

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA He is coming He is in the other House I will read out the statement and then you can participate In meantime he will come from there

MR CHAIRMAN When the discussion under Rule 193 regarding drought situation in Orissa takes place I hope the Minister of Agriculture will be present here

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA Yes Sir

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) In the meanwhile Delhi Development Bill can be taken up *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA No Sir It is not possible

Sir on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the drought situation in Orissa and the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Government Normally the monsoon season starts from early June and continues till the end of September in Orissa The annual rainfall in the State is 1482 mm In the current year the monsoon started late in some areas and was also scanty and erratic There was significant departure from the normal level in the months of July and September There has been a deficit of 24 per cent in the rainfall during the south-west monsoon According to the information furnished by the Government or Orissa on the basis of